

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are present in this application. Claims 1, 15, 18, and 19 are independent.

Interview

The Examiner is thanked for informing the Applicants that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 101 would be withdrawn. The following comments are presented for the record, but with the presumption that the rejection has been withdrawn. As no further issues are present in this application, Applicants solicit an early indication of allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter.

In particular, the Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 19-21 are allowed.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC 101

Claims 1 - 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed to a non-statutory "signal claim." Applicants respectfully disagree that claims 1, 15, or 18 are directed to a "signal encoded with functional descriptive material," *per se*. Applicants submit that claims 1 and 15 are clearly directed to "a transmission method." Claim 18 is directed to "a transmission system." A transmission method constitutes the patentable category of "process." A transmission system constitutes the patentable category of "machine." Thus, each of the claims is directed to a statutory category.

Applicants request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No.48,222) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-235 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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